

Administrator,

Next week, Chris Robbins and I will visit ORD's Western Ecology Division facilities in Corvallis and Newport, OR. While there, we will view the facility renovations and meet with researchers, managers and staff from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Tillamook Estuary Partnership.

Hot issues

SAB Quality Review of Two IRIS Assessment Peer Review Reports

Quality review of draft peer review reports of two IRIS assessments -- Ethyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (ETBE) and Tert-Butyl Alcohol (TBA) – is on the agenda at the September 26th (virtual) meeting of the full SAB.

ORD Hurricane Florence Response

ORD's I-WASTE online decision support tool was used to develop mapping products used in a pre-Incident manner to support EPA responders and others. The tool was used to identify waste management facilities in NC, SC, and VA as well as to generate larger tables of facilities broadly available in Regions 3 and 4. Facilities are identified as potential recipients for hurricane-generated debris, and facility maps are coupled with other maps showing flooding to help assess which waste management facilities might be adversely impacted by the storm. ORD is also providing support by sharing our microbial source tracking methods to help with monitoring contamination from hog waste lagoons. EPA has a crucial mission in the recovery process from the hurricane, and providing technical support for the state's waste management decisions is a key part of this mission.

PFAS

On September 17th, ORD briefed the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and Department of Toxic Substance and Control staff on our PFAS research strategy. ORD staff provided a summary of the PFAS research strategy, followed by more in-depth presentations on the two PFAS risk assessments (GenX and PFBS) and the tiered toxicity testing strategy. Next week, ORD will provide a briefing to Region 2 and Program Office representatives on the preliminary findings of ORD's collaborative PFAS study with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

ORD Scientist to Assist with Wildfire Response

Beginning September 19, ORD's Gayle Hagler will be deployed as part of the U.S. Forest Service's Air Resource Advisors Program. Hagler will assist in the air quality response for the Pole Creek and Bald Mountain, Utah fire response (See news account of this fire [[HYPERLINK "https://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/south/pole-creek-fire-reaches-percent-containment-as-more-air-resources/article_d70459d3-40ff-580a-a127-29336862a6eb.html"](https://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/south/pole-creek-fire-reaches-percent-containment-as-more-air-resources/article_d70459d3-40ff-580a-a127-29336862a6eb.html)]). Hagler anticipates being deployed for approximately two weeks. This event and the smoke outlooks Hagler will assist in issuing can be monitored from: [[HYPERLINK "https://wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlooks/CentralUtah"](https://wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlooks/CentralUtah)]).

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Regional Science Liaison Meeting

The Regional Science Liaisons (RSLs) will be on EPA's Research Triangle Park campus for meetings, a poster session, demonstrations of online tools, and lab tours during the week of September 24. During the week, the RSLs will participate in demonstrations of ORD's online tools/resources, tour select ORD RTP laboratories and meet to discuss Regional cross-cutting issues with ORD.

Supporting State and Territorial Emergency Response

On September 25, ORD's Wayne Cascio will participate at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials' Policy Summit. Dr. Cascio will join two officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to share current information and resources in a session titled, "Responding to Emergencies: Water, Drought, and Wildfires." The meeting will focus on state engagement, work with impacted areas, and partnerships with federal agencies that can be responsive to states.